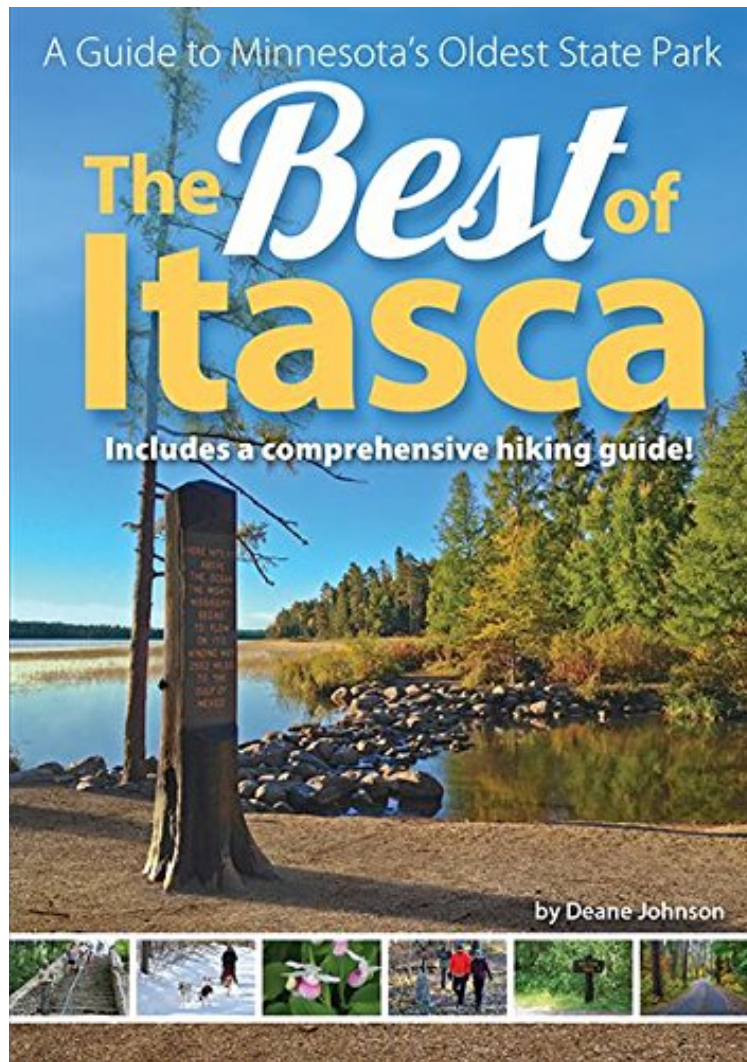


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The Best of Itasca: A Guide to Minnesota's Oldest State Park

Deane Johnson

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Deane Johnson : The Best of Itasca: A Guide to Minnesota's Oldest State Park before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Best of Itasca: A Guide to Minnesota's Oldest State Park:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy C. NormanGreat book with lots of information about Itasca State Park.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. An insider's friendly, intelligent guide to everything you could want to know about Itasca ParkBy C-JoI don't know which is better, the stunning photographs of this northern Minnesota gem in all seasons, or the smart, friendly, fascinating text that brings the park's special universe (and its fascinating past) to life. Let's just say this is the best kind of guide book: both accessible and deep, compact yet

amazingly substantial, beautiful and easy to navigate. The photos are knockouts, from vibrant landscapes of Itasca's lakes and forests (and of course, the iconic Mississippi Headwaters) to beautiful close-ups of the plants, animals, and wildflowers that you'll start to notice everywhere once you've read about them. Johnson starts off the book with nine top recommended sites in the park a sort of greatest-hits. This is followed by a very helpful guide to planning a trip, seasonal activities, lodging, backcountry camping, etc.; trail maps for hiking, biking, and skiing; a guided driving tour; and a lively, engaging (even funny) natural and cultural history of the park, from the animals that historically and presently have called it home, to the indigenous history and settler disruption, to the making of the park as we know it and the CCC's role in it. Throughout the book, you get all sorts of interesting little insider tidbits and tipsthings to look out for, why something looks the way it does, etc. You can tell the author has explored every nook and cranny of the park and loves the place. I've been to Itasca many times, but after reading this, I'll see it with new eyes. I can't wait to get back now. Absolutely essential for anyone visiting the park, but also highly recommended for anyone interested in Minnesota history and nature. And pretty enough to be a coffee-table book!

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. K-TownBy jill johnson I am delighted to find a comprehensive guide book to Itasca State Park, Minnesota's oldest and treasured state park! I loved the section on park history who knew that the park hosted pageants from 1932 to 1938 with Ojibwe Indians, park staff, Boy Scouts and University of Minnesota students depicting life prior to European settlement? The lovely photos and concise writing draw you into the beauty and historical significance of our finest park.

Enjoy everything Itasca State Park has to offer. Whether you're visiting for a day, staying for a week or simply want a keepsake of Minnesota's most popular park, you'll find everything you need in the pages of *The Best of Itasca*, written by Deane Johnson. The detailed guide to hiking, biking, camping, lodging and skiing also includes fascinating stories from Itasca's colorful past, as well as the natural history of the land, dating back to prehistory. Plus, with tips on finding the park's hidden gems throughout the seasons and information about nearby attractions, such as the La Salle Lake State Recreation Area, this book will help you to connect with nature at Itasca State Park.